

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 23 and 26 are requested to be canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 24 and 25 are currently being amended.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-22, 24, 25, 27 and 28 are now pending in this application.

Claim 26 was previously withdrawn from consideration and is currently being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 1-22 and 27-28 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 24 and 25. As suggested by the Examiner, claims 24 and 25 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. Accordingly, claims 24 and 25 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,991,088 to Kam. While Applicant disagrees with the rejection of claim 23, Applicant has canceled claim 23 without prejudice or disclaimer in order to expedite prosecution. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 23 is moot.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by the credit card payment instructions in EFS-Web being incorrect or absent, resulting in a rejected or incorrect credit card transaction, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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